

## House Republican Press Release

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### **Rep. Farr Supports Bill To Create State Employee Workforce Productivity Council**



Stressing the need for a stable and more productive state employee workforce, state Representative Bob Farr, R-19<sup>th</sup> District, today urged support for a measure (House Bill 5094) he introduced that would create a new state panel committed to achieving that goal by measuring outcomes and increasing the use of technology and

automated systems.

Representative Farr, who serves on the Government Administration and Elections Committee (G. A. E.), submitted written testimony supporting the bill at a G. A. E. public hearing today.

The intent of the bill is to keep the growth of the state employee workforce within sustainable limits by increasing its productivity, Representative Farr said.

“During previous economic downturns, some of the actions the governor has taken to avert or eliminate projected deficits have included: instituting hiring freezes, creating incentives to encourage early retirement, and as a last resort, implementing state employee layoffs,” Representative Farr stated in his written testimony. “Typically, temporary reductions in the state employee workforce that took place during economic crises were followed by a flurry of new hires to refill those positions as the economy recovered.”

“To me, it makes more sense for state agencies to look into ways of increasing the productivity of the existing staff rather than simply adding to it. Increasing computerization is one step we can take to significantly improve productivity and obviate the need to expand state agency payrolls,” Representative Farr wrote.

“In addition, many of the services currently provided by full-time state employees could be performed just as efficiently and at less cost to the taxpayers by the private sector,” Representative Farr wrote.

The 10-member State Employee Workforce Productivity Council would consist of six representatives from the private sector with expertise in automated processes management and productivity analysis, the Secretary of the Office of Policy and

Management, the Chief Information Officer of the Department of Information Technology, the Commissioner of Administrative Services and the state Comptroller.